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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH and SANITARY
INSPECTOR OF THE URBAN
DISTRICT OF WHITWORTH
DURING 1951



WHITWORTH :
Rothwell Brothers, Printers, 671 Market Street
1952

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THE HEALTH COMMITTEE



CHAIRMAN—COUNCILLOR MRS. ISABELLA HEYS, J.P., C.C.

COUNCILLOR A. HARGREAVES

A. RHODES

A. TAYLOR

J. W. TAYLOR

Medical Officer of Health :

R. W. FARQUHAR, B.SC. (AGRIC.), M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Housing Inspector :

F. COOKSON, M.S.I.A., CERT. MEAT AND FOODS

Clerk : JULIE NOLAN, D.P.H.H.

Clerk and Solicitor to the Council :

MR. H. HOYLE

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE WHITWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MRS. HEYS AND GENTLEMEN :

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of Whitworth for the year 1951.

Following on the resignation of Dr. R. W. Farquhar, I was appointed Medical Officer of Health to the Urban District of Whitworth in July, 1952. Consequently, my experience of local conditions being, as yet, very limited, I feel reluctant to comment on matters other than factual, or to draw deductions from statistics before having absorbed the local atmosphere and digested the various factors geographical, economic and social, which possibly have a very decided bearing on the interpretation of such data.

The report has been compiled in substantially the same form as last year when the section dealing with the General Provision of Health Services was introduced.

It is very gratifying to record that during 1951 the Infant Mortality Rate was only 27, the lowest figure ever recorded for the District and comparing favourably with the General Rate of 29.6 for England and Wales. This, together with the fact that once again there was no maternal death in the District reflects high credit on the Doctors, Midwives, Hospitals and Health Visitors - not, of course, forgetting the parents.

The high incidence of measles in 1950 continued on to February of 1951 and then abruptly petered out, whereas whooping cough continued sporadically but with decreased incidence relative to 1950, throughout the year.

For the third consecutive year no case of diphtheria occurred, a substantial tribute to preventive methods.

I take this opportunity of expressing thanks to Miss Nolan for her devoted service throughout the year.

My thanks are also due to Mr. Cookson for his willing assistance and co-operation.

Finally I thank the Chairman and Members of the Committee for their help and support.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. O'GRADY.

SECTION I.
STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Summary of Statistics - 1951.

Area (Acres)	...	..	...	...	...	4483
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	8360
Population (Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	7442
Number of inhabited houses (1951)				..	...	2668
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	£34,981
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£132

		Male	Female	Total
LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	... 55	53	108
	Illegitimate	... 2	3	5
		-----	-----	-----
		57	56	113
		-----	-----	-----

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 16.3

STILL BIRTHS 0 0 0

Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) births ... 0

DEATHS 55 61 116

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population
mid 1951 ... 15.4

DEATHS FROM MATERNAL CAUSES.

Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion ... NIL
Maternal mortality rate NIL

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

1 2 3

Death rate of infants under one year of age —

All infants per 1,000 live births ... 27
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 26
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births NIL

DEATHS FROM CERTAIN SPECIFIED DISEASES.

Cancer (All forms) ... 15
Tuberculosis ... 4

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	55	61
Enteric fever ... .. .	...	...
Small-pox ... .. .	...	...
Measles ... .. .	...	...
Scarlet fever ... .. .	...	...
Whooping cough ... .. .	...	...
Diphtheria ... .. .	...	...
Influenza	6	6
Meningococcal meningitis ... .. .	...	...
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	1
Other Tuberculosis ... .. .	...	...
Malignant neoplasm—Stomach	3	...
Malignant neoplasm—Uterus ... .. .	...	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	3	7
Rheumatic fever ... .. .	...	...
Diabetes	1	...
Cerebral hæmorrhage ... .. .	...	...
Heart disease	18	12
Other circulatory diseases	1	4
Bronchitis	5	6
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	...
Other respiratory diseases	1	...
Peptic ulcer	1	...
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) ... .. .	...	...
Appendicitis ... .. .	...	...
Liver diseases ... .. .	...	...
Other digestive diseases ... .. .	...	...
Nephritis	2	2
Encephalitis Lethargica ... .. .	...	...
Syphilis... .. .	...	...
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth..	...	...
Other diseases of pregnancy and parturition ... .. .	...	...
Suicide ... .. .	...	1
Motor Vehicle accidents ... .. .	...	...
All other accidents	1	2
Other deaths from violence ... .. .	...	...
Other defined causes	4	11
Ill-defined or not known	4	7
Poliomyelitis ... .. .	...	...
Polioencephalitis ... .. .	...	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year ... { Total	1	2
{ Legitimate	1	2
{ Illegitimate ... .. .	...	...
LIVE BIRTHS { Total	57	56
{ Legitimate	55	53
{ Illegitimate	2	3
STILLBIRTHS { Total	0	0
{ Legitimate	0	0
{ Illegitimate	0	0
RESIDENT POPULATION ... 7,439		

INFANT MORTALITY.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes. { Certified	2	...	...	..	2	1	...	...	...	3
{ Uncertified
{ Small-pox
{ Chicken-pox
{ Measles
{ Scarlet Fever
{ Diphtheria and Croup
{ Whooping Cough...
{ Diarrhoea
{ Enteritis
{ Tuberculous Meningitis...
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis...
{ Other Tuberculous Disease
{ Congenital Malformations
{ Premature Birth
{ Atrophy, Debility
Marasmus...
Atelectasis
Injury at Birth
Erysipelas
Syphilis
Rickets
Meningitis <i>not Tuberculous</i>
Convulsions	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Gastritis
Laryngitis
Bronchitis
Pneumonia (all forms)
Suffocation... ..	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Influenza
Endocarditis
Pemphigus...
Accident
Total.....	2	...	...	..	2	1	...	...	...	3

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

Population.

The population of the Whitworth Urban District at the 1951 census was 7,442, this being a decrease of 918 (11%) on the 1931 census. The Registrar-General's estimate of the population (mid 1951) was 7,439, and it is on this figure that the birth and death rates have been calculated.

Births.

The total number of births during the year 1951 was 113 which is equivalent to a birth rate of 16·3 per 1,000 of the population. The birth rate was 16·8 in 1950 and 16·0 in 1949. Throughout the country generally, the birth rate has been declining gradually after reaching a maximum in 1947.

Deaths.

The chief causes of death are shown in the table on p. 5. Heart disease was the most common cause of death, accounting for 25·8% of the total. All forms of cancer caused 15 deaths while diseases of the respiratory system (bronchitis, pneumonia tuberculosis, etc.) were responsible for 18 deaths.

The total number of deaths during the year was 116, equivalent to a death rate of 15·4 per 1,000 of the resident population, as compared with 14·8 for 1950.

Maternal Mortality.

For the past three years there have been no deaths from diseases or accidents connected with pregnancy or childbirth.

Infant Mortality.

The trend of infant mortality is generally regarded as our most reliable indicator of changes in standards of living. Infant deaths for the whole of England and Wales have fallen from 138 per 1000 live births in 1901-05 to 29·6 per 1000 in 1951.

In Whitworth in 1951 there were 3 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an infant mortality rate of 27 per 1000 live births. This is easily the lowest figure on record for the District, comparing very favourably with the General Rate for England and Wales, which was 29·6, and reflecting credit on all concerned.

It is regrettable that two of the three deaths recorded should have occurred by suffocation. It is now being realised that in many so called 'Suffocation Deaths' the primary cause of death is some severe and rapid undetected infection such as pneumonia.

There were no still births during 1951 and no infant deaths attributed to prematurity.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Since 5th July, 1948, the personal health services, some of which were previously the responsibility of the Whitworth Urban District Council, have been administered by the County Council through Divisional Health Committees. And although the Whitworth U.D. Council is adequately represented on Divisional Health Committee No. 13, it is considered fitting to include in this report a review of the services provided for the inhabitants of Whitworth by the Divisional Health Committee.

The environmental health services are, of course, still under your own control, but, as your Medical Officer of Health is also Divisional Medical Officer, co-ordination locally of the whole of the Public Health Services is ensured.

THE WHITWORTH CLINIC, BURNEDGE VILLA, MARKET STREET

The clinic premises at Burnedge Villas are used as a combined clinic for both school and child welfare purposes. On page 14 will be found details of the various sessions held at this Clinic.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS

It is a requirement of section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, that every birth shall be notified to the Medical Officer of the Welfare Authority for the area in which the birth takes place. Since the National Health Service Act, 1946, came into operation arrangements have been made for every birth notification to be sent to the Divisional Medical Officer, as this method greatly facilitates the prompt visiting of new-born infants and their mothers by the health visitors in the area.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY SERVICE

One resident midwife, assisted by midwives from the adjoining Borough of Bacup, attended during the year 58 domiciliary confinements, representing approximately 51·3% of the total confinements to mothers normally resident in the district.

All the midwives are qualified to administer Analgesia and in 1951 Gas and Air Analgesia was administered in the home to a much larger proportion of domiciliary confinements than in previous years.

The services of emergency maternity units are available from several hospitals in the neighbourhood. Local Authority provision for expectant and nursing mothers includes the free supply of sterilised accouchement outfits and includes the loan of special equipment for premature babies.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRE

A weekly welfare session was held at the Whitworth clinic throughout the year. The total number of attendances made by children amounted to 1,810, this being a decrease on the 1950 attendances. Children are referred from the clinic to the family doctor, or through the School Health Service for specialist advice and treatment for defects of the eye, or of the ear, nose and throat, or for orthopaedic complaints. It is regretted that since December 1948 it has not been possible to obtain the services of a dental officer for the Whitworth area, even for the priority classes of pre-school children and expectant mothers. Dried milk, cereals and other foodstuffs are on sale at the clinic, and where necessary vitamin and iron products are also available. The following figures summarise the work done during the year :

ATTENDANCES AT WHITWORTH CHILD WELFARE CENTRE

Year	(A) All Sessions (including Doctors' Sessions)									(B) Doctors' Sessions included in (A)				
	Number of Sessions during year	Number of individual children attending at ages :				Number of attendances by children at ages :				Number of Sessions during year	Number of children seen by doctor at ages :			
		0 yrs	1 yr	2-4 yrs	Total	0 yr	1 yr	2-4 yrs	Total		0 yrs	1 yr	2-4 yrs	Total
1951	51	139	23	52	214	1516	165	129	1810	43	241	30	44	315
1950	52	157	31	38	226	2075	255	135	2465	45	304	28	23	355

HEALTH VISITING SERVICE

During the year the Whitworth health visitor made 3,915 individual home visits to 2,302 homes. The health visitor also carried out the duties of a school nurse, and further information on the extent of her work is given in the following table :

WORK CARRIED OUT BY WHITWORTH HEALTH VISITOR DURING 1951

Number of Individual Visits	Number of Homes visited	Clinic and Centre Sessions attended			
		School Clinics	Child Welfare Centres	Antenatal and Postnatal Clinics	Diphtheria Immunisa- tion Clinics
3915	2302	95	46	—	11

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Parents have the choice of having their children protected against diphtheria and smallpox either by their own family doctor or at the school clinic. Every endeavour is made by the medical and nursing staff to persuade parents to give their consent to these very necessary and valuable preventive measures.

As will be seen from the table below, 143 children completed the full course of primary immunisation, while 187 received reinforcement injections. This represents a substantial increase on the previous year's figures but it should be noted that the increase occurs only in the re-inforcement inoculations with regard to what are almost exclusively school children, i.e. age 5 - 14 years. The immunisation state of the child population under 5 years of age is still well below the safety threshold and can afford no grounds for complacency.

NUMBER OF DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATIONS PERFORMED IN WHITWORTH

Number of individuals who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation									No. of Re-inforcements			
Age at date of final injection									Age group			
0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	Total under 5 yrs	5—	10—	Total 5-14 years	0—	5—	10-14 incl.	Total 0-14 years
1951												
58	36	8	5	4	111	22	10	32	4	107	76	187
1950												
46	54	9	7	7	23	21	4	25	—	18	6	24

The increase relative to 1949 in the number of vaccinations carried out in 1950 has been maintained during 1951. Recent experience has endorsed the warning given in last year's reports regarding the necessity for a high level of vaccination in the community. The safest age for primary vaccination is during the first six months of infancy. The following table summarises the work done on vaccination.

NUMBER OF VACCINATIONS PERFORMED IN WHITWORTH

PRIMARY VACCINATIONS										RE-VACCINATIONS									
AGE IN YEARS										AGE IN YEARS									
Under 1		1—		5—		15—		Total		Under 1		1—		5—		15—		Total	
P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S
1951																			
32	31	9	9	1	1	2	2	54	53	1	—	—	—	—	—	19	18	20	18
1950																			
25	25	30	30	1	1	1	1	57	57	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	12	12	12

P = NUMBER PERFORMED S = NUMBER SUCCESSFUL

HOME NURSING

With the continued pressure on the general practitioner and hospital services, the need for domiciliary nursing has tended to increase. During the year under review the Whitworth nurse attended 180 new cases. This involved not less than 4,797 separate visits, and this large number reflects great credit on the nurse. The following table summarises the work done:

WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE DISTRICT NURSE IN WHITWORTH—1951

Type of Case	On books at 31.12.50	New cases attended 1951	Visits during 1951	Deaths 1951	Removed to Hospital 1951	Removed other causes 1951	Recovered 1951	Remaining on books at 31.12.51
Medical Cases	8	36	1457	17	4	—	18	6
Surgical Cases	8	16	515	4	—	—	14	4
Intramuscular and hypodermic injections	29	124	2553	3	6	10	107	—
Infectious diseases	1	4	272	—	—	2	1	29
Total	46	180	4797	24	10	12	140	39

HOME HELP SERVICE

This service is designed primarily to deal with emergency cases, ready to give assistance to families with young children so that the breadwinner may return to work. Applicants are required to contribute towards the cost of this service according to the financial circumstances of the household, but most old age pensioners are entitled to this service free of charge. The following table provides a summary of the number and types of cases they attended.

NUMBER OF WHITWORTH CASES ATTENDED
BY HOME HELPS IN 1951

Confinement at home	4
Confinement away from home.....	—
Tuberculosis	1
Sickness (other than T.B.)	—
Old Age and Infirmary	5
	<hr/>
	10
	<hr/>

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Health education has an important bearing on the prevention of illness and the informal teaching carried out by all members of the Health Services in the course of their day-to-day duties is supplemented as occasion arises by the distribution of leaflets, booklets and posters from the clinic.

The happy relationship established with the staffs of hospitals in the area allows of continuity of treatment when persons are discharged from hospital and come under the care of midwives, health visitors, or district nurses in the home. After-care arrangements also include the provision of Convalescent Home treatment, and during 1951, 5 adult persons and 1 pre-school child from Whitworth were sent for convalescence under the County scheme.

The care and after-care of persons suffering from Tuberculosis in Whitworth is carried out as a routine duty by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor. Articles of sick room and after-care equipment are stored at convenient centres and are available on loan.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Whitworth area is covered by the Bacup Ambulance Station, and there has been a further increase during the year in the number of cases handled by the personnel of this station.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Two mental health workers on the divisional staff are responsible for the ascertainment of mental illness and mental deficiency, for the community care of mental defectives, and the after-care of persons who have undergone treatment for mental illness. By encouraging whenever possible admission as a voluntary patient and by providing close liaison between patient, general practitioner and hospital, these mental health workers are helping to secure specialised treatment in the early stages of mental illness.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Local co-ordination between the School Health Service and the other health services of the County Council is secured by reason of the fact that your Medical Officer of Health, in his capacity as Divisional Medical Officer, is required to undertake duties as Senior School Medical Officer within his division, including Whitworth. Close integration in the field is achieved also since the Whitworth health visitor also acts as school nurse so that continuous contact with and supervision of children can be maintained from birth to the end of school life.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The bacteriological examination of milk, water and ice cream is now carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Monsall Hospital, Manchester, and this laboratory may also be used for the examination of specimens of blood, fæces, urine, throat swabs, etc., in connection with epidemic disease. The laboratories at Birch Hill and other local hospitals continue to carry out bio-chemical and other examinations for general practitioners.

APPENDIX

TABLE I

CLINIC SESSIONS HELD AT THE SCHOOL CLINIC, MARKET STREET
WHITWORTH

Minor Ailments :	Tuesdays 9.30 a.m. – 12 noon Fridays 9.30 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.
Child Welfare :	Tuesdays 2 – 4 p.m.
Immunisation and Vaccination	4th Tuesday in month, 10.30 a.m.
Ante-Natal Session : (Midwives only)	Mondays 2 – 4 p.m. (Doctor attends on first Monday in month)

TABLE II

DIVISIONAL HEALTH STAFF—WHITWORTH AREA

Asst. Div. Medical Officer & Sch. Medical Officer	DR. M. A. FEENY, School Clinic, Market Street, Whitworth. Tel. Whitworth 52381.
Health Visitor and School Nurse	Miss E. B. Ferguson, School Clinic Market Street, Whitworth Tel. Whitworth 52381.
Tuberculosis Health Visitor	Miss N. D. Hanmer, Chest Clinic, Drake Street, Rochdale. Tel. Rochdale 3892.
District Nurse	Mrs. M. Franklin, Scarr View, Market Street, Whitworth. Tel. Whitworth 52177.
Domiciliary Midwife	Mrs. A. Hillary, 321 Market Street, Whitworth. Tel. Whit- worth 52119.
Home Help Organiser	Miss M. J. Hollinrake, Divisional Health Office, Heywood. Tel. Heywood 69005.

Mental Health Workers

Mr, J. H. Todd, Divisional Health Office, Heywood. Tel. Heywood 69005. (Outside Office Hours, Tel. Heywood 69384.)

Mr. E. B. Williams, Divisional Health Office, Heywood. Tel. Heywood 69005. (Outside Hours Tel. Oldham MAn 5488)

Ambulance Station,
Bacup.

Station Leader F. Smith, Forge Street, Bacup. Tel. Bacup 428.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)

DURING THE YEAR 1951.

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED											HOSPITAL		
	Total Cases at all Ages	AGE PERIODS—YEARS										Total deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of per- sons belonging to district.
		0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 & over				
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	6	...	...	3	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	5	...
Diphtheria, (including Membranous Croup) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia ... }	4	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia ... }		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ... }	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Meningo-Coccal Infection	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Acute Poliomyelitis .. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Gastro Enteritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria { Contracted in this Country ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abroad .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other diseases <i>notifiable</i> in district, <i>e.g.</i> :—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles, excluding German measles	79	...	2	29	26	20	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...
Whooping Cough	38	...	4	26	3	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Any other disease ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	130	...	8	55	33	27	...	1	3	1	2	...	12	...

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—Monthly Incidence, 1951

DISEASE	Total	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever ...	6				1			1	1		1	2	
Diphtheria...	0												
Measles ...	79	51	22		6								
Whooping Cough ...	38	5			3		5		18		1	3	3
Pneumonia ...	4	1	3						1				
Erysipelas ...	1												
Puerperal Pyrexia	1												1
Meningo-coccal Infection	1										1		
Totals ...	130	57	25	0	10	0	5	1	20	0	3	5	4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—Comparison 1942—1951

DISEASE	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942
Scarlet Fever ...	6	8	28	4	5	3	5	7	13	6
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	1	1	4	5	14	109	46
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	79	135	101	86	64	27	75	82	79	62
Whooping Cough ...	38	54	15	67	5	28	24	13	23	2
Pneumonia ...	4	5	10	4	2	3	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia...	1	...	2	1	2	...	1	...	2	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	1	1	2	1	...	2	1	...
Erysipelas ...	1	4	2	6	3	2	2	2	3	1
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	...
Gastro Enteritis ...	...	...	...	25	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polio-myelitis ...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningo-coccal Infection ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	130	207	161	196	86	69	112	120	232	119

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1951.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 year .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5 „ .....	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
5—10 „ .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
10—15 „ .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20 „ .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25 „ .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35 „	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—45 „	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55 „	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65 „	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards.	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...
Totals	4	5	0	1	2	1	1	0
	9		1		3		1	
	10				4			
Total 1950 ...	5	5	1	0	3	3	0	0
	10		1		6		0	

The following is a list of the occupations, if any, followed by notified cases during the year 1951.

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
School Children	—	1
Housewife	4	—
Cotton Operative	1	—
Bus Driver	1	—
Builders' Labourer	1	—
Music Teacher	1	—
Metal Machinist	1	—
	9	1

COMMENTS ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifications.

The table on p. 16 gives a summary of the various infectious diseases notified during 1951, together with their age incidence.

Incidence.

The table on p. 18 provides a comparison of the incidence of infectious diseases over the ten year period (1942-51), and it will be seen that the total number of cases which occurred in 1951 was below that for the previous three years, due mainly to a decrease in measles and whooping cough.

Measles.

This disease which reached epidemic proportions towards the end of 1950 continued unabated during January 1951 and then petered out in the following month. Generally speaking, this disease was mild in character and no resultant deaths were recorded.

Whooping Cough.

Cases occurred sporadically throughout the year without fatality. It is to be hoped that research and investigations at present in progress will soon produce a reliable preventive vaccine against this most distressing and dangerous disease.

Scarlet Fever.

Six cases were recorded during the year.

Diphtheria.

For the third consecutive year no case of diphtheria has occurred in the District. The immunisation state of the child population has been commented on elsewhere (p.10).

Tuberculosis.

Ten cases were notified during the year (9 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory). There were six deaths in 1951, five from the respiratory form of the disease, compared with six deaths in 1950. It is hoped that B.C.G. vaccination, which is now beginning to be used to protect young children in infected families as well as nurses and others specially exposed to infection, will eventually prove a valuable means of controlling this disease.

In addition, the more extensive use of the Mass Radiography Unit by early detection of hitherto unsuspected cases will enable treatment to be instituted at an early stage thus enhancing the chances of complete recovery and also eliminating actual or possible sources of infection.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Whitworth.

MRS. HEYS AND GENTLEMEN :

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1951.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

56 Preliminary or Informal Notices and 12 Statutory Notices for the abatement of nuisances and the remedy of sanitary defects in and around dwellings were served on owners and occupiers.

It was not found necessary to take legal proceedings in any case during the year.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Number of premises visited	320
Number of Sanitary Defects found.....	139
Number of sanitary improvements effected	96
Food premises inspected	56
Factories inspected	4
Offensive trades.....	2
Premises under Shops Acts.....	104

SANITARY DEFECTS FOUND.

Houses :

Dampness of walls and ceilings	12
Defective Roofs.....	8
Defective Floor Boarding or Flagging	6
Defective Chimney Flues.....	2
Defective Wall and Ceiling Plaster	11
Defective Fire Ranges, Fixed Boilers, etc.....	5
Defective Skirting Board.....	1
Defective Eavestroughing	6
Defective Slop-stone Waste-pipes	6
Defective Slop-stones	2
Defective Window Frame or Sash Cords	3
Unhygienic Rooms and Bedding	3

Defective External House Wall	1
Insufficient Water Supply	4
Insufficient Window Opening	4
General :	
Choked Water Closet or branch drainage	9
Insanitary Closet accommodation	2
Insufficient Sanitary accommodation	1
Choked or defective House Drainage	11
Defective Sanitary accommodation buildings	8
Defective Sanitary accommodation fittings	10
Burst water service pipes.....	6
Water Supply unprotected from contamination	2
Defective Rain Water Pipes	5
Flooded Cellars.....	1
Defective or dangerous Yard Wall.....	1
Accumulation or depositing of Refuse	2
Emission of smoke into living rooms	3
Keeping of Animals	3
Dangerous Out-Buildings	1
Unpaved and badly drained yard	2
	<hr/> 139 <hr/>

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

A. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Water Supply.

The Water supply to the area is mainly satisfactory, being provided by the Rochdale Corporation, and the majority of the houses has a supply of water that is wholly sufficient and good in quality.

The water is collected from upland surface gathering grounds, and afterwards treated by modern methods of filtration and chlorination.

Some premises are still supplied from wells, and efforts are being made to induce owners to change over to public supply.

27 samples of the public water supply were taken during 1951, and submitted for bacteriological examination. All were reported satisfactory.

12 samples were submitted for chemical analysis, and satisfactory reports were received.

The number of dwelling houses supplied from the public mains is 2,543, and 125 houses have supplies drawn from private sources.

A comprehensive survey has been taken of the private water supplies involving the 125 houses which includes 3 supplies of well water to 9 houses.

Approximately weekly sampling for the latter 3 months of the year showed *Bacillus Coli* and *Faecal Coli* of the several supplies. From 2 of the 3 wells, the sampling showed heavy *Bacillus Coli* and *Faecal Coli*, i.e. 180 plus *Bacillus Coli* and 5 to 90 *Faecal Coli*.

Sampling is proceeding and negotiations are in hand for the houses served by the well water to be changed over to public supply.

Public Cleansing.

Household refuse is collected on a weekly basis from all the houses in the area and approximately 1950 dustbins are emptied by one side-loading waggon.

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping methods on land at Landgate. The position is suitable, being situated a good distance from dwelling houses, yet at the same time easy of access.

No serious trouble has been experienced due to fire or the infestation of the tipping area by rats, crickets etc.

The Council also have in operation a salvage scheme and the following table shows the weight of materials recovered during the 12 months under review.

	Tons	Cwts.
Waste Paper	10	18
Kitchen Waste	19	3
Scrap Iron, Rags etc.	2	1
Light Metal	18	4

The kitchen waste is processed at the Rochdale Cleansing Department and returned as pig food.

Details of the cost of collection and disposal of household refuse are as follows :

Loads removed	1317
Cost per load	£1 12s. 4d.
Refuse in tons (estimated)	3294
Cost per ton	12/11d.
Number of houses and premises	3008
Cost per house and premises per an.	14/1d.
Average length of haul	1½ miles

Sanitary Accommodation.

The sanitary accommodation of the area is as follows :—

Fresh Water Closets	1912
Waste Water Closets	161
Pail Closets	58
No. of houses on the Water Carriage system	2634

The Pail Closets existing are situated at the following premises :—

Dwelling-houses	34
Mills and Workshops.....	6
Farms	7
Churches	11

With very few exceptions they cannot be converted to the fresh water carriage system, in view of the fact that they are situated in outlying parts where no sewer is available.

Although the Council encourage the conversion of waste water closets to the fresh water carriage system, progress is slow and there is no authority for compulsory conversion.

Many of the back to back type of houses have joint water closet accommodation.

Atmospheric Pollution.

Generally speaking, little trouble was experienced during the year by atmospheric pollution from smoke, and it was not therefore necessary to take any legal action in this matter.

In one case, nuisance was created by the emission of grit and fumes from foundry premises. The management made every effort to avoid creating nuisance and are now contemplating moving to more suitable premises and installing modern plant.

Much still remains to be done with regard to atmospheric pollution caused by domestic chimneys, but smokeless fuels and improvement in the design of domestic fireplaces will aid progress.

Rodent Control.

The main sewers were treated on two occasions during the year and judging by the number of baits taken, the treatment was successful in disposing of a fair number of these destructive pests.

12 industrial, 14 domestic premises and 14 farms were treated for infestation. In addition the river was treated on 7 different occasions.

A part-time man is employed for dealing with these treatments, and a charge is made for his work when engaged on industrial and farm premises.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

The following table gives a summary of inspections made and details of the results.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE
ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948

PART I OF THE ACT.—1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
SECTION I : Factories in which Sections I, II, III, IV and VI are to be enforced by Local Authorities	42	...	...
SECTION II : Factories not included in (I) in which Section VII is enforced by the Local Authority	9	...	...
SECTION III : Other premises in which Section VII is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	...	...	...
Total ...	51	...	...

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of defects			Number of offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred by H M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature ... ..	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation :				
insufficient				
unsuitable or defective ...	4	2	2	...
not separate for sexes ...	2	1	2	...
Other offences against the Act	1	1	...	...
Total ...	7	4	4	...

PART VIII OF THE ACT.—OUTWORKERS : Three.

B. Housing.

Difficulties continue to be experienced in securing repairs to property and there is increasing deterioration due to lack of proper maintenance. Many owners point out the hardships of the Rent Restrictions Acts, particularly in relation to the increased costs of building materials and labour.

There are approximately 750 houses of the back to back type and 170 of the back to earth type, with a cavity at the rear of little consequence. The majority are so built as to be incapable of re-conditioning.

Every effort is made to keep the older type of house in a reasonable state of repair, but it is difficult to decide how far it is practicable to deal with such houses.

The building of new houses continues, but it does not seem possible that any improvement can at present be effected by means of closure or demolition of the old type of house.

There are many houses, which in my opinion, can effectively be re-conditioned, but here again there is frustration, due to the shortage of materials, etc.

It is difficult to assess the extent of over-crowding in the area, although the very severe cases have been relieved by the action of the Council. Until a proper survey, which is long overdue, is carried out, no accurate statement can be given.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

(a) NUMBER OF DWELLINGS PROVIDED DURING 1951.

(1) By the Local Authority	34
(2) By other bodies and persons	0
	<hr/>
	34
	<hr/>

(b) UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	105
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	270
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations	2
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	70

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	61
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year—

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Act—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	9
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of notices—	
(a) By owners	9
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

C.	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 —	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0
D.	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
(1)	Number of tenement or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit	0
4.	Housing Act, 1936, Part IV - Overcrowding—	
A.	(1) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year (No accurate figures can be given. A new survey is required)	
B.	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	22
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	104
5.	Housing Act, 1949—	
A.	(1) Number of schemes submitted—	
	(a) By private individuals	0
	(b) By the Local Authority	0
	(2) Number of dwelling houses affected	0
B.	(1) Number of schemes approved—	
	(a) Of private individuals	0
	(b) Of the Local Authority	0
	(2) Number of dwelling houses affected	0
	(3) Number of additional separate dwellings provided	0

C. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Milk Supply.

Under the above regulations the Local Authority is no longer concerned with the production of milk on the farm, this being the function of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Local Authority, however, retains responsibility for those provisions which apply outside dairy farms, for the provisions relating to diseases communicated to man, and the registration of dairies which are not dairy farms, and of dairy-men or distributors of milk who are not dairy farmers

Throughout the district there are 35 dairy farms and 41 cowkeepers (including dairy farms) representing approximately 600 head of cattle. 25 shops, other than dairies are also registered distributors of bottled milk. There are no shops selling unbottled milk.

Tuberculosis.

40 samples of Milk, as compared with 45 in 1950, have been obtained from farmers during the course of delivery and submitted for examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. One sample, as compared with four for 1950, was found to contain Tubercle Bacilli, and was referred to the Ministry of Agriculture for attention.

Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

36 samples, as compared with 45 in 1950, were obtained in the course of delivery, and 35 conformed with the required standard.

Ice Cream.

Routine visits were made during the year to the three premises in the district where ice cream is manufactured, and also to the premises where ice cream is sold by retail only. A large amount of the ice cream sold is now pre-packed and manufactured outside the district.

43 samples were submitted for examination and were provisionally placed in the following grades :

Grade 1	—	34	Grade 2	—	4
Grade 3	—	4	Grade 4	—	1

Owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic quality of ice cream, it is unwise to pay much attention to the

bacteriological results on any single sample. Judgement should be based rather on a series of samples. It is suggested that over a six-monthly period 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1, 80% into Grades 1 or 2, not more than 20% into Grade 3, and none into Grade 4.

Eleven other samples of iced products were obtained and reported upon as 'Satisfactory'.

Food and Drugs Acts, 1938 to 1950.

The provisions of the above Acts, so far as they relate to the sampling of food for nature, substance and quality are administered by the Lancashire County Council in co-operation with the Local Authority.

A total of 39 samples was obtained, of these 28 were of milk and the 11 others comprised :

1 tapioca	2 tea
1 blancmange powder	3 jam
1 semolina	1 apple jelly
1 dessert powder	1 ice cream

All the samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following :

SAMPLE	RESULT OF ANALYSIS	ACTION TAKEN
1 formal milk	The freezing point indicated the presence of 2.5% extraneous water	Vendor cautioned and further sample obtained
1 formal Milk	The freezing point indicated the presence of 0.6% extraneous water	Vendor cautioned and further sample obtained
1 formal milk	The freezing point indicated the presence of 2.6% extraneous water	Same vendor. Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained
1 formal Milk	The freezing point indicated the presence of 2.5% extraneous water	
1 informal milk	Deficient of 18.4% solids-not-fat and the freezing point indicated the presence of 18.4% extraneous water	Formal sample obtained
1 formal milk	Deficient of 46.6% fat	PROSECUTION : Vendor fined £20 with 1 gns. costs
1 formal milk	Deficient of 1.1% solids-not-fat	

Sewage Works.

As reported previously, the method of treatment is by precipitation tanks, continuous filters and humus tanks. The samples have not been too satisfactory, i.e. borderline results, this being the result of many of the essential parts of the plant wearing out, and the difficulty of repairing and replacement.

New Ejector plant is on order for the Healey pumping station and delivery is expected late 1952.

In conclusion, I desire to acknowledge the courtesy extended to me by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and tender my thanks to the Medical Officer of Health and Miss J. Nolan for their assistance so willingly given at all times.

I am, Your obedient servant,

*Health Department,
Council Offices,
Whitworth.
September 1952.*

FRED COOKSON, C.R.S.I.,
*Sanitary Inspector
and
Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector.*



